

### **Department Description**

The Justice Court is a limited jurisdiction court responsible within Sandy City for the adjudication of criminal matters classified as Class B and C misdemeanors, violations of city ordinances, infractions, and small claims actions not to exceed \$10,000 in value.

### **Department Mission**

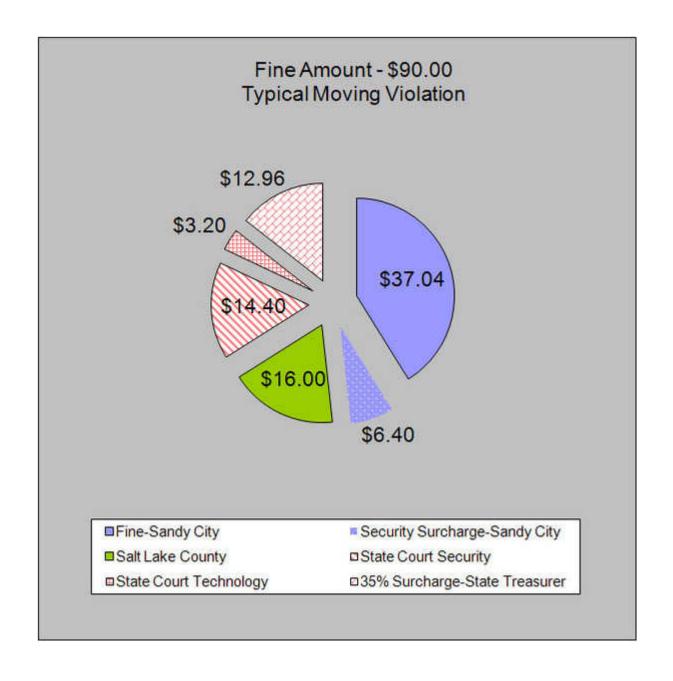
The mission of the Justice Court is to provide the Sandy City community with an open, impartial, efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law.

# **Traffic Fines Distribution**

Typical Moving Violation Fine Amount: \$90

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Category	Amount
Fine-Sandy City	\$37.04
Security Surcharge-Sandy City	\$6.40
Salt Lake County	\$16.00
State Court Security	\$14.40
State Court Technology	\$3.20
35% Surcharge-State Treasurer	\$12.96
Total	\$90.00
Sandy City retains 48.27% or \$43.44	

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#### **General Policies**

The Sandy Justice Court is a court of limited original jurisdiction for the adjudication of Class B & C misdemeanors and infractions occurring within Sandy City. The court also handles civil small claims filings. As an integral part of the city's criminal justice system, the court follows several core principles as service delivery objectives.

- Treat all individuals with dignity and respect.
- Ensure that proceedings are open, impartial, and timely.
- Provide appropriate case follow-up to ensure compliance with judicial orders.

#### **Revenue Policy**

The city's policy for revenue generated by the court is as follows:

- The Justice Court is funded by the city's general fund without regard to the revenue generated by court fines.
- Court fines and the bail schedule are established by state law.
- The intent of court decisions, fines, and enforcement activities is to change behavior and not solely to generate revenue.
- Those who violate traffic, zoning, and animal-related laws should primarily bear the costs of enforcement rather than the general public.
- The court will make every effort to collect all revenue due and handle cash in compliance with city policy and the state money management act.

Note: Citizen feedback consistently underscores the importance that city residents place on safety, specifically citing traffic control as a desired improvement (see the survey results on page 11). One of the city's core functions is to promote public safety by enforcing the laws established for that purpose. The FY 2012 court services budget includes \$1,335,293 of direct costs. The city's cost allocation study identifies an additional \$599,972 of indirect costs associated with the building, human resources, finance, and other overhead costs as well as the costs related to prosecution. The costs associated with the officers that issue the tickets are also significant but have not been calculated. However, the difference between the \$2,550,400 generated by court fines and the sum of the direct and indirect costs is equal to just 5% of the Police Department's budget. The cost of the police, zoning, and animal control officers exceeds this amount which means the money collected in court fines covers most but not all of the total costs of enforcement. The city believes that this is as it should be. The violators should pay for most of the costs but not so much that money becomes an incentive that could result in unreasonable enforcement.

### **Five-year Accomplishments**

#### - Court Referee

The Justice Court holds referee hearings for minor traffic offenses and animal control violations. During 2010, referees heard 3,721 matters of which only 8-9% proceeded to trial. Clerks authorized to offer non-appearance plea-in-abeyances for minor traffic violations even reduced the number of referee hearings needed.

#### - Video Technology

In 2010, a total of 1,950 defendant appearances were accomplished through the use of video technology between the court and various jail facilities throughout Utah. This effort improved overall security and saved over \$58,500 in transport costs during the year.

#### - Case Management

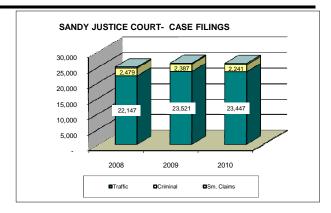
In mid 2006, Sandy City became Utah's only entity to electronically file prosecutor's "Informations." This saves time for both the prosecutor and the court. Efforts are underway to ensure a continuance of this capability once the local justice court database is transferred to the Administrative Office of the Courts' control in 2011.

#### - Electronic Payments

Initiated in September, 2009, individuals may now pay most fines and fees via the Internet or telephone for a \$2.00 service fee. Patrons made 10,668 payments this way during calendar year 2010.

### **Performance Measures & Analysis**

New case filings in the Justice Court totaled 26,096 in 2010. This is very similar to the 26,149 cases filed in 2009. Continuing budget reductions forced clerical positions to be held vacant which resulted in 2,175 new cases filed per clerk. The no delay telephone response rate fell from 73.0% in 2009 to 69.5% in 2010. This is well below the desired rate of the 78.3% no delay rate achieved in 2008. Case closure rates could not be sustained throughout the calendar year resulting in an increase in cases pending.



Measure (Calendar Year)	2008	2009	2010
Criminal Cases	2,479	2,387	2,241
Traffic Cases	22,147	23,521	23,447
Small Claims Cases	335	247	408
New Cases Filed per Clerk	1,997	2,180	2,175
Cases Pending (12/31)	7,956	12,792	13,324
Criminal Trials	910	987	955
Arraignments	5,117	5,157	4,648
Court Referee Hearings	3,219	3,723	3,721
Incoming Phone Calls	67,349	68,687	65,782
Calls Answered Without Delay*	78.3%	73.0%	69.5%

<sup>\*</sup> Monthly Average.

### **Significant Budget Issues**

- 1 Staffing Changes Due to prior year budget cuts, half of a partially unfunded full-time Justice Court Clerk position is being eliminated from the staffing plan and the other half is being converted to a seasonal position.
- 2 Credit Card Processing This line item has increased as more citizens utilize web payments.

### **Budget Information**

Department 15	2008 Actual	2009	2010	2011 Estimated	2012
Financia Comme	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Approved
Financing Sources:	Φ 2 7 6 7 10 2	A 2 700 226	Φ 2 5 5 2 0 5 0	Φ <b>2</b> 400 <b>7</b> 46	A 2 200 400
3151 Court Fines	\$ 2,765,193	\$ 2,780,236	\$ 2,553,050	\$ 2,489,746	\$ 2,390,400
3153 Court Surcharge	124,475	125,862	127,425	127,000	110,000
31693 JC Attorney Recoupment	24,353	29,907	51,091	45,000	50,000
31696 Internet Traffic School	660	780	2,310	-	-
<b>Total Financing Sources</b>	\$ 2,914,681	\$ 2,936,785	\$ 2,733,876	\$ 2,661,746	\$ 2,550,400
Financing Uses:					
411111 Regular Pay	\$ 709,840	\$ 715,351	\$ 719,281	\$ 729,446	\$ 708,773
411113 Vacation Accrual	7,627	7,171	4,380	-	-
411121 Seasonal Pay	22,108	19,459	4,996	4,856	20,318
411131 Overtime/Gap	2,146	1,539	1,171	2,300	2,300
411211 Variable Benefits	153,171	152,515	152,380	152,461	150,429
411213 Fixed Benefits	101,142	99,656	97,880	114,069	103,149
411214 Retiree Health Benefit	2,449	-	2,498	2,304	203
41132 Mileage Reimbursement	_	-	32	200	200
4121 Books, Sub. & Memberships	3,060	3,269	3,425	3,200	3,200
41231 Travel	8,620	7,275	6,809	10,000	10,000
41232 Meetings	825	266	74	750	750
41235 Training	590	745	375	500	500

Department 15	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Estimated	2012 Approved
412400 Office Supplies	26,476	21,832	25,083	24,650	24,650
412420 Postage	20,983	17,467	20,915	19,800	19,800
412435 Printing	3,513	4,475	5,217	8,500	8,500
412440 Computer Supplies	1,111	2,609	2,013	4,000	4,000
412511 Equipment O & M	6,040	6,670	9,335	6,800	6,800
412611 Telephone	13,752	13,537	10,762	15,516	19,235
41333 Court Appointed Counsel	95,550	123,450	126,450	116,000	116,000
41342 Credit Card Processing	16,756	21,056	27,358	24,800	29,800
413723 UCAN Charges	256	279	279	270	270
41379 Professional Services	3,593	5,788	6,044	6,400	6,400
41381 Witness Fees	5,698	6,346	6,105	6,600	6,600
41382 Jury Fees	2,276	1,443	518	1,776	1,776
41389 Miscellaneous Services	22,208	27,604	24,488	32,831	32,831
414111 IS Charges	82,177	79,669	76,922	74,588	58,809
4174 Equipment	17,913	15,852	24,430	-	-
Total Financing Uses	\$ 1,329,880	\$ 1,355,323	\$ 1,359,220	\$ 1,362,617	\$ 1,335,293

Staffing Information		Bi-week	ly S	alary	Full-time Equivalent			
Staffing Information	N	Minimum		<b>Iaximum</b>	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	
Appointed - Category 1:								
Justice Court Judge	\$	2,636.80	\$	4,371.20	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Justice Court Judge	\$	32.96	\$	54.64	0.60	0.60	0.60	
Justice Court Administrator	\$	2,128.00	\$	3,528.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Regular:								
Justice Court Clerk Supervisor	\$	1,347.20	\$	2,234.40	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Justice Court Referee	\$	1,222.40	\$	2,026.40	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Senior Court Clerk	\$	1,035.20	\$	1,716.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	
Justice Court Clerk	\$	962.40	\$	1,595.20	7.00	7.00	6.00	
Part-time:							_	
Justice Court Clerk	\$	12.03	\$	19.94	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Seasonal:								
Justice Court Clerk	\$	7.25	\$	11.60	0.64	0.19	0.69	
Total FTEs				16.24	15.79	15.29		

## **Budget Information (cont.)**

## **Court Services**

Fee Information	2008 Approved	2009 Approved	2010 Approved	2011 Approved	2012 Approved
3151 Court Fines					
Driver Awareness Class (Tier I)	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Defensive Driving Class (Tier II)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$40	\$40
Alive at 25 Class (youth offenders)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$40	\$40
Electronic Payment Convenience Fee	N/A	N/A	\$2	\$2	\$2

